

22nd April 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you that some lower school assessments will be taking place in classes between 18th May and 5th June 2026. This is a week before and a week after the half-term holiday. Many subjects will be covered during this time, but not all, for a variety of logistical, staffing and curriculum reasons. Therefore, individual subject teachers will inform their classes of what is necessary for an assessment, if they are doing them and when they will take place. Assessments may be of a variety of types and lengths depending on the needs of particular departments. Where subjects do not have assessments, we will be able to produce progress reports from data already taken during the year. Furthermore, as part of our assessment process students will also be taking part in online STAR assessments which provide the school with additional information about reading and maths skills.

These assessments form an important part of how we monitor students' progress and inform our teaching. They are used by teachers to make professional judgements about how well students are securing key knowledge and skills, and therefore there will not be a formal process for reporting individual results. It is important to note, however, that these assessments represent just one element of the evidence we use over the course of the year. They do not, in isolation, determine future groupings or end of year assessed grades. You will receive a full end of year report which reflects students' achievement across their work throughout the year.

We will be explaining to students that assessments need to be taken seriously and require appropriate behaviour. I hope that you will be able to support us in confirming this message. We are mindful, of course, of the additional stress that assessments can cause and aim to make the process as manageable as possible. It would be most helpful if you could assist us by encouraging students to remember the following:

1. Where assessments are due to happen, class teachers will be giving dates, times, topics, and preparation information to their own classes. They should be putting any relevant information on to Teams.
2. Students need to be adequately prepared. They should make sure that they are clear about what will be required and if unsure they should ask their subject teachers.
3. Students should have the necessary equipment to complete them and should not attempt to communicate with each other during assessments.
4. Each student should ensure they have the basic equipment that is required for each assessment. A pen, pencil, ruler and rubber are essential and a calculator may be necessary for some subjects.

During lessons over the next few weeks, students will be given more specific information about any upcoming assessments by their individual subject teachers. Please do not hesitate to contact your son or daughter's Year Co-ordinator at school if you have any queries regarding the assessment period. If you have a subject specific question about an assessment, please contact the department in question.

Yours faithfully,

Mr T Read
Assistant Headteacher